

Bureau of Plant Industry
LIBRARY
MAY 23 1911

NO. 59.

BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

March 1 to 15, 1911.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.



(NOTE: Applications for material listed in this bulletin may be made at any time to this Office. As they are received they are filed and when the material is ready for the use of experimenters it is sent to those on the list of applicants who can show that they are prepared to care for it, as well as to others selected because of their special fitness to experiment with the particular plants imported.)

AMYGDALUS PERSICA. (Amygdalaceae.) 29991. Seeds of a peach from Tsinanfu, Shantung, China. Presented by Dr. J. B. Neal. "This peach is grown not far from here. It is a cling and though rather inconvenient for eating, is very large and luscious, COMING INTO MARKET ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER AND LASTING FOR A MONTH OR MORE. It is the last peach we get during the season, the peach supply beginning the middle or last of June and continuing through the summer and early autumn, about four months in all." (Neal.) For distribution later.

ASPARAGUS SPP. (Convallariaceae.) 29981-983. Asparagus seed from Erfurt, Germany. Purchased from Messrs. Haage und Schmidt. 29992. Seed of Asparagus acutifolius from Jerusalem, Palestine. Presented by Mr. E. F. Beaumont, American Colony, Jerusalem. 30010-011. Asparagus seed from Naples, Italy. Purchased from Dammann and Company. 30012-015. Asparagus seed from Edinburgh, Scotland. Presented by Prof. Isaac Bailey Balfour, Royal Botanic Garden. All these varieties were secured for the Office of Truck-Crop Diseases in breeding a resistant asparagus. All for distribution later.

BERBERIS SPP. (Berberidaceae.) 29957-959. Seeds of barberries from Kew, England. Presented by Dr. David Prain, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens. 29957. Berberis acuminata. 29958. Berberis parvifolia. 29959. Berberis wilsonae. 29999. Plants of barberry from Ussy, France. Purchased from M. Pierre Sebire. Berberis stenophylla corallina. All for distribution later.

COTONEASTER SPP. (Pomaceae.) 29963-971. Seeds of nine species of cotoneaster from Kew, England. Presented by Dr. David Prain, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens. The cotoneasters are especially beautiful for covering walls and for training against the house. For distribution later.

CYDONIA SP. (Pomaceae.) 30059. Cuttings of a quince from Kashgar, Chinese Turkestan. "The quince called in Turkestan 'Beeha'. A large variety with ribbed fruits, covered with heavy down, a prolific bearer. The fruits stewed with sugar, made into a compote or cooked with rice are favorite foods in both Russian and Chinese Turkestan. The plants stand considerable alkali and drouth and are recommendable as a fruit tree for the home garden in desert regions." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later. This shipment of cuttings, containing besides this quince, cuttings of elm, grape, willow, poplar and tamarisk, is, so far as can be found, the first importation of cuttings from Chinese Turkestan to the United States. The material, which was shipped January 18 from Kashgar through the American Consul-General in St. Petersburg reached Washington in perfect shape March 9, after exactly 50 days. Much of the material however had been collected as early as the latter part of November.

DIOSPYROS KAKI. (Diospyraceae.) 30065-066. Cuttings of persimmons from Okitsu, Japan. Presented by Mr. T. Tanakawa, in charge of the Government Horticultural Experiment Station. 30065. Fugi. Astringent variety. 30066. Fuyu. Non-astringent variety. For distribution later.

HELIANTHUS SP. (Asteraceae.) 29984. Seeds of a sunflower from Mexico. Presented by Dr. Edward Palmer, Durango, Mexico, through Dr. R. H. True. "Dr. Palmer in 1896 found a rather good-looking sunflower seed in Mexico which has interested me considerably. It is not a large seed but has a good plump kernel and I think will give a fairly good oil yield. The shuck is much thinner than that of the Russian sort and if it will yield in this country might prove valuable. Doctor Palmer tells me that in Mexico where this sort is grown the black shells yield a purplish dye which is esteemed by some. Five years after collection these seeds gave a germination test of 86%." (True.) For distribution later.

JUNIPERUS CEDRUS. (Pinaceae.) 30092. Seeds of a juniper from the Island of Palma. Presented by Dr. George V. Perez, Puerto Orotava, Teneriffe, through Mr. S. T. Dana, Acting Chief of Silvics, Forest Service. "A very rare and nearly extinct tree. It comes from the heights of the neighboring Island of Palma, where the few specimens that remain are being destroyed without mercy. I am afraid the seed is very bad, most of it being barren, probably coming from isolated female trees, but I hope amongst it there may be some fertile seed. In years to come I hope to have some seed myself from a few young trees in my garden here." (Perez.) For distribution later.

LALLEMANTIA IBERICA. (Menthaceae.) 29932. Seed from Kew, England. Presented by Dr. David Prain, Director, Royal Botanical Gardens. This plant which is now being cultivated in Southern Russia for its oil-producing seed, is introduced in order to test its value as an oil-crop, the oil being considered one of the highest grade drying oils. As it occurs native in the drier parts of Palestine, it may be of great importance in the semi-arid portions of the Southwest. For distribution later.

LATHYRUS SPP. (Fabaceae.) 29933-945. Seeds of thirteen species of Lathyrus from Kew, England. Presented by Dr. David Prain, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens. Introduced for the work of the Office of Forage Crop Investigations. For distribution later.

MANGIFERA INDICA. (Anacardiaceae.) 30085-089. Cuttings of mango from Lucknow, United Provinces, India. Presented by Mr. H. J. Davies, Superintendent, Government Horticultural Gardens, at the request of Rev. N. L. Rockey, Gonda, United Provinces. 30085. Amin. 30086. Bombay. 30087. Dilpasand. 30088. Langra. 30089. Safeda. All for distribution later.

MEDICAGO CANCELLATA. (Fabaceae.) 30061. Seed collected near Sarepta, Russia, on top of the Jergeni hills, on white stony, sandy soil effervescing with acid, by Mr. W. Grekow, Zarizyn, Saratoff, Russia. Presented by Mr. W. V. Arapow, Samara, Russia. For distribution later.

MEDICAGO FALCATA. (Fabaceae.) Seed from Svälöf, Sweden. Presented by Dr. N. H. Nilsson, Director, Swedish Seed-breeding Association. "This is seed from our real *Medicago falcata* which grows wild in most parts of our country and it is a very good species. Its harvest-value is not very great, as it is frequently lying down, but as a pasture plant it is the more valuable. It turns vast dry stretches of sandy (but calcareous) ground into excellent pasture fields, where an astonishingly great number of cattle can feed the whole summer. The seed should be prepared in order to make it germinate." (Nilsson.) For distribution later.

MEDICAGO FALCATA. (Fabaceae.) 30009. Seed from Simla, India. Purchased from Mr. F. Booth Tucker, The Salvation Army, Simla. From Kashmir. For distribution later.

PRUNUS SP. (Amygdalaceae.) 29921. Seeds of a cherry from Tokyo, Japan. Presented by Dr. T. Watase, the Tokyo Plant, Seed and Implement Company. "Oshima Sakura. The fastest growing variety of cherry trees, the wood of which is valued for fuel and charcoal." In Japan where the charcoal fire is a great

feature of the home life, prizes are given by horticultural societies for the most beautifully burning charcoal. (Fairchild.) For distribution later.

POPULUS SPP. (Salicaceae.) 30054-057. Cuttings of poplars from Chinese Turkestan. These varieties include one or two very resistant to drought and alkali, one recommended as a sandbinder, and are all recommended as quick growing shade trees for the drier regions of the United States. (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

PYRUS SP. (Malaceae.) 29972-975. Seeds of pears from Kew, England. Presented by Dr. David Prain, Director, Royal Botanical Gardens. 29972. *Pyrus balansae*. 29973. *Pyrus canescens*. 29974. *Pyrus longipes*. 29975. *Pyrus adenophorus*. All for distribution later.

PYRUS SPP. (Malaceae.) 29994-995. Cuttings of pears from Haifa, Palestine. Presented by Mr. A. Aaronsohn, Jewish agricultural experiment station. 29994. *Pyrus syriaca*. 29995. *Pyrus* sp. For distribution later.

PYRUS SPP. (Malaceae.) 30030-30033. Cuttings and seeds of pears from Algeria. Presented by Dr. L. Trabut, Algiers. Cuttings of 30030. "A large fruited *Pyrus* sp." Cuttings of 30031. "This is near to *P. longipes*, but sufficiently characterized by the form of the leaves and the fruit. This pear grows on the tufas in the region of Lamoricriere, Daya. I called it *gharbensis* from the name of the region which formed part of the ancient kingdom of Gharb (of the west) at the time of Arab domination." Cuttings of 30032. "A *Pyrus* which I have not yet distinguished, and which occurs in the basins of the high plateaux on the edge of the great Chott, a location more calcareous and even alkaline. (This *Pyrus* has been provisionally assigned to *P. gharbensis* but it is not identical.)" Seeds of 30033. "Pear occurring on the calcareous tuffs in the dry region south of Oran. Stock good for very calcareous soils." This seed was received under the name *Pyrus gharbensis*. All notes by Dr. Trabut. For distribution later.

RUBUS SPP. (Rosaceae.) Seeds of three species of *Rubus* from Kew, England. Presented by Dr. David Prain, Director, Royal Botanical Gardens. 29976. *Rubus flosculosus*. From the province of Hupeh, Chinese Empire. 29977. *Rubus lasiostylus*. From the Patung district, Hupeh province. 29978. *Rubus parvifolius*. From the provinces of Chihli, Shingking and Szechuan, and in Corea and Japan. All for distribution later.

SALIX SPP. (Salicaceae.) 30051-053, 30058. Cuttings of willows from Chinese Turkestan. Among these are forms standing

great alkalinity and high degrees of heat and drought. One is characterized by having brilliant green twigs. (Meyer's introductions). For distribution later.

STRYCHENOS QUAQUA. (Loganiaceae.) 30026. Seeds from Amani, German East Africa. Presented by the Director, Biologisch Landwirtschaftliche Institute. Introduced for the work of this Office in bringing together all the members of this genus with edible fruits, in the hope of finding some worthy additions to the list of semi-tropical fruits standing shipment well. One edible species, *S. spinosa*, has fruits as large as a small pomelo with a shell that requires a hammer to crack it. (Fairchild.) For distribution later.

TAMARIX SPP. (Tamaricaceae.) 30049-050. Cuttings of two species of tamarisk from Chinese Turkestan. One recommended as a sandbinder often forming mounds twenty meters high, the other as an ornamental shrub for alkali regions. (Meyer's introductions.) For distribution later.

TRIFOLIUM SPP. (Fabaceae.) 29950-956. Seeds of seven species of clover from Kew, England. Presented by Dr. David Prain, Director, Royal Botanical Gardens. Introduced for the work of the Office of Forage Crop Investigations. For distribution later.

ULMUS SP. (Urticaceae.) 30060. Cuttings of elm from Khanaka, Oasis of Sandju, Chinese Turkestan. "A variety of elm called 'Karayagatch', having graceful, slightly drooping branches. Found in an old graveyard." (Meyer's introduction.) For distribution later.

VACCINIUM VITIS-IDAEA. (Vacciniaceae.) 30064. Seed of cowberry from Bremen, Germany. Presented by Dr. G. Bitter, Botanical Garden. Imported for the work of Mr. F. V. Coville in breeding improved blueberries and other Vacciniums. For distribution later.

VITIS VINIFERA. (Vitaceae.) 30042-048. Cuttings of table grapes from Chinese Turkestan. All these varieties are grown under irrigation on arbors and with long wood. They are buried during winter to avoid the great fluctuations of temperature occurring during that season. (Meyer's introductions). For distribution later.

ZEA MAYS. (Poaceae.) 30035-038. Corn from Yachow, Szechuan, China. Presented by Mr. E. T. Shields. Four forms, white, yellow, and smooth and rough-surfaced pop-corn. For distribution later.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE, Nairobi. Mr. J. W. T. McClellan writes February 15 that he has sent to the Kenya Forest to try to get *Landolphia* rubber plants or seed for us.

CHINA, Shanghai. Mr. D. MacGregor, Superintendent of Parks, writes without date that "the white bark of the *Diospyros* lotus is believed to be due to climatic conditions and age. Four-year-old seedlings which I possess, show no signs of the white bark. Further, they can hardly, except by slightly slower growth, be distinguished from plants raised from seeds of the cultivated varieties. With regard to the climatic effect in the production of white bark I have no experience with the *Diospyros*, but *Pinus Bungeana*, the white pine of Northern China, occurs here in gardens, some in the native city being of considerable age, but none show the white bark. Some time ago I received a basket of seedling nanmu trees from Mr. Beaman. They were in such delicate condition when they came to hand that I planted them immediately. I am glad to say that the majority of them are alive. Being only plants from 4 to 6 inches high and having sustained a long journey you can understand they were totally unfit to forward to you. By next autumn they ought to be able to stand exporting."

CUBA, Cienfuegos. Mr. Robert M. Gray of the Harvard Botanical Experiment Station writes March 8 that he will try within a few days to send samples of the three varieties of *Dasheen* (*Colocasia antiquorum* var. *esculentum*) grown there, in which he is unable to distinguish any specific difference when grown in good soil. He will also send specimens of the type grown everywhere there as a table vegetable and called locally *malanga ysleño* (to all appearances *Colocasia antiquorum esculentum* type).

ENGLAND, Cheshire, Neston. Mr. A. K. Bulley writes March 5 that "Forrest arrived here safely yesterday bringing with him truly terrific loot. My soul quails before the immense quantity of species he has collected. They will take some raising!" He has brought with him seed of the Chinese paper tree and of one of the Chinese labiate oil plants, which seed will be sent us as soon as possible.

INDIA, Saharanpur. Mr. R. S. Woglum writes from Hong-kong that on his return to Saharanpur in April he will secure budwood of the "Sylhet lime" which he thinks would be a very valuable introduction.

NEW ZEALAND, Auckland. Mr. W. Petrie writes January 22 that he will be glad to send us seed of *Entelea arborescens* as

soon as it ripens. "It grows in such plenty in my garden that the seedlings are a perfect nuisance, so I do not anticipate that you will have any difficulty in growing them." This introduction is a tree already tried in California and found to be a very rapid grower. It is made for the purpose of ascertaining the possibility of using the sawdust of the wood, which is very soft and light, as packing for grapes in place of the cork and redwood sawdust commonly used.

PARAGUAY, Horqueta. Mr. T. R. Gwynn writes January 17 that as we failed to receive the seeds and specimens of "timbo" (*Pithecolobium* sp.), the "urunday" (*Astronium* sp.), the "cud-piy" (*Piptadenia* sp.), and the "cedro" (*Cedrela* sp.), he will get them for us as soon as he can. The "cedro" he describes as having "a leaf exactly like our black walnut, but the wood is soft, grain smooth and even, color of wood exactly that of our cedar, is not an evergreen, is excellent for posts, and grows from posts planted in the ground." He will also send shortly roots of the "guavadamy", and has been promised seed, leaves and twigs of the "ymangasy" or Paraguay rubber tree. In all has spent "something like \$500 Paraguay paper money, which is now at a discount of 1300 per cent and has been down to 1800 per cent, so you see I haven't spent much."

PARAGUAY, Villa Encarnacion. Mr. C. F. Mead writes Feb. 1 that as soon as he can obtain them, he will send seeds of the Yerba carmi or yellow yerba. This grows as a shrub, is a finer flavored yerba but not as profitable. However, it flourishes in very poor soil. "As regards the cactus caraguata, (*Bromelia argentina*, S.P.I. 28689), of which I sent seeds some time ago, giving the plant a bad name on account of its spreading habit, it seems that the fibers of the leaves are used for making rope, the same as henequen and the like plants cultivated in Mexico. While putting up Caraguata bridge, I tested a rough rope of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch made of caraguata and it stood a greater strain than a new $\frac{3}{4}$ inch manilla rope (German make), lifting in succession a steel girder of 560 kilos and then a steel trestle of 870 kilos. The $\frac{3}{4}$ inch manilla lifted the girder but broke on the trestle. The caraguata rope was a rough affair, just twisted together by one of my peons, but most of the fibers were about 30 inches long."



RUBUS SP. CHINESE RASPBERRY.

In connection with Plant Introductions Nos. 29976-978 in this Bulletin we give the above photograph of a new and interesting strain of Chinese raspberry, Plant Introduction No. 23346, which was fruited out last season in California. Unlike introductions many years ago from India, which were disseminated widely through the country under the name of strawberry-raspberry, this strain has berries of a very pleasant flavor suited for preserving. Its greatest probable value, however, lies in its early ripening. At Chico, California, fruits were ripe while the standard varieties were just in bloom. Similar results were obtained in Maryland with this variety. The fruits have no bloom, are unusually large, and are very attractive. From photograph by Dr. Walter Van Fleet, Chico, California, April 14, 1910.